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Tafoya Sentenced for Income Tax Fraud Conviction  
BY KRISTIN GAZLAY

A federal judge sentenced Eugene Tafoya to the maximum six years in prison Thursday for not reporting to the government the thousands of dollars he earned by performing covert activities for CIA agent Edwin Wilson.

In asking for leniency, the 48-year-old former Green Beret said the FBI had just informed him that he was on the "not-so-famous list" of people Wilson is charged with plotting to kill.

Tafoya was convicted last month of charges of vastly underreporting his income on his 1980 and 1981 income tax returns.

A hearing was scheduled immediately after the sentencing on the Canadian government's request to extradite Tafoya to face charges filed after a 1979 car bombing incident. However, no ruling was made on the extradition request.

The government also filed a new motion Thursday to revoke Tafoya's indigency status.

Tafoya received a two-year sentence for a 1980 misdemeanor assault conviction stemming from the shooting of a dissident Libyan student in Fort Collins, Colo.

Several witnesses testified at Tafoya's tax trial that Wilson hired Tafoya at the request and expense of the Libyan government to shoot the student.

Tafoya, who worked for Wilson in Libya, testified he thought he was on a CIA mission when he pumped two bullets into the student's head.

On Thursday, Tafoya delivered a 40-minute plea for mercy to U.S. District Judge D.W. Suttle, in which he detailed how he said he "honorably and faithfully" fought for the United States during the Korean and Vietnam wars. Tafoya also said he was afflicted with asthma, degenerative arthritis and heart disease.

"After realizing I was duped by people who misused their credentials," Tafoya said Thursday, "I returned home (from Libya) to get my life in order."

Tafoya said that Wilson promised him, but never actually paid him, an annual salary of \$50,000. All the money he received from Wilson, he said, was reimbursement for expenses.

Tafoya offered the judge Thursday a copy of a "House Intelligence Committee memo that I made" that he said was "of strategic value to the United States."

The judge ordered the memo sealed at Tafoya's request.

Wilson has been convicted of smuggling arms and tons of explosives to Libya. He also is accused of plotting to kill the federal prosecutors handling his case, people who testified against him, and his ex-wife.

Tafoya's wife, Betty Jo, was tried with her husband and acquitted of the tax charges.